IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

December '21 / January '22

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Charitable No.
80487 0087 RR0001

Incorporation No.
1871121

Historical
@IrondaleOntario.ca

Host your next function at Irondale's heritage church

Rental Information & Newsletter Editor
Carol 705-457-8438

Irondale Community Centre

Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

~Rentals~
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Barry Simmons
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hugamugga@yahoo.com

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A Sincere Thank You

Thank you
- to those that donate to support our work,
- to the many volunteers that assist with events
- to our social media followers and newsletter subscribers who engage and spread the message

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.
All the best the New Year has to offer.

With much appreciation,
Carol Simmons,
on behalf of the Bark Lake Cultural Developments Board of Directors

November 11

I was privileged to attend the Kinmount Remembrance Day service, held at the Cenotaph on Main Street.

It was very well done, full of respect and with reverence. As I listened to the speaker, I was made aware of the history of the local legion.

I figured there may be readers that were not aware of the history of the Legions in general. Turn to page six for what I have learned.

We hope to be hosting a Trivia Pub Night on Saturday February 19.

We are really hoping we can offer you a night out.

The Irondale Community Centre is booked; the meal plans are being finalized and the trivia questions are being researched.

Doors will open at 5pm with dinner served promptly at 5:30. You will want to be seated, ready to test you knowledge for the chance to win great prizes. Tickets will be $20 each.

To order tickets or for more information — call/text 705-457-8438

If you find you haven't a 2022 calendar by January 1, contact us.

Kevin generously created the calendars for us as a fundraiser. The 8.5" x 11" pages provide lots of space for birthdays and for keeping track of events you plan to attend. When the year is over, frame the Loon photos to adorn your walls. Proceeds help to preserve Irondale's history. $15 each, extra $5 if mailed

email historical@IrondaleOntario.ca
or call/text 705-457-8438

The Moment of Christmas ... a childhood memory by George Pratt

Until the township schools of Haliburton County were centralized in the early 1950's, every one of them produced its own Christmas concert. So it was at Bat Lake School, whence was registered nary a child from Bat Lake, but four Pratts and two Martins (their cousins) along with Paul Lynden, all from South Lake - and pretty, freckled little Lorna Hogg from Canning Lake. Our existence was far removed from the mainstream; as those long ago schooldays waned into stern winter, the world about us may well have been building to a passion founded in the broader meaning of Christmas; but of this jubilation, our isolation kept us ignorant. To us, the full meaning of Christmas was made manifest in the narrow focus of our concert.

Starting in late November, preparations for the concert were taken up in a frenzy, which by late December, became a fever. The plays and songs and recitations were selected from old manuscripts kept in the teacher's desk, all specimens of Victorian rectitude, be assured, for indeed they were that old. Each year they were dusted off and duly memorized and practiced, an enterprise that provided a welcome relief from our normally punctilious routine of no-nonsense book learning.

Decorations, carefully hand-made, we festooned about the one-roomed school's four windows, where, in the centre of each, we hung stars, carefully cut from cardboard and wrapped with tinfoil scavenged from our parents' cigarette packages. Most industriously, we fashioned chains from woven red and green crepe paper, tacking them into the same pattern of holes in the mouldings that evidenced the decorating of all the years since the school was built in 1890.

Of all the preparations, we labored longest in the drawing of our poster. Painstakingly scribed on standard sheets of foolscap, the lettering touted our concert in rustic kidprint, the composite typography of all eight students in five grades. Holly leaves and berries were drawn ever so imaginatively around the border by the older kids, candy canes at each corner by the younger. In truth, aside from looking at old Christmas cards, we could only guess at what holly really looked like, because none grew around where we lived. The last line of the poster, its motley color calculated to guarantee excitement, exhorted 'COME ONE, COME ALL' in a wildly imaginative script that was
closer to the hieroglyphic. When it was all drawn, we coaxed a whopping twelve copies off our inkslopped gelatin-pad Hectograph, a fixture in all pre-1950's Ontario schools. The coloring we filled in later by hand, exhausting every last hue of the school collection of Crayolas. Displaying none of the normal resistance at having to run long distance errands, we proudly distributed our posters all the way from Walter Ireland's stone house, a mile past the school closer to Minden, to Ern Barry's log house, three miles away toward Gelert, to Eric Paulimaki's board and batten house, a mile in along the Canning Lake road. The Pratt kids delivered one to old Bob Shaw, a hermit of a man with truly fearsome eyebrows, whose house they passed at the point where they ventured on to frozen South Lake on their winter route home. Alton and Shirley Hughes and 'Old' Mrs. Pogue lived right near the school so the smaller kids ran posters over to them. Little Lorna Hogg could drop off one to Kurt and Gertrude Soling, the old German couple who had mysteriously settled on Bat Lake just before the war. (They were anti-Nazi and had had to flee, but none of us knew that. We were told they were probably 'spies' whatever that meant.) What we did know for sure was that plump Mrs. Soling was known to make a heart-stopping dessert called strudel and her twinkling blue eyes smiled on all kids. That was enough to forget about their spying and invite them to the concert. The most colorful copy was taken by teacher Anna Agnew to the post office bulletin board in Minden, where it heralded our grand event alongside the competing, gaudy proclamations of the Red School and Bethel School posters. The dates of the performances seemed coincidentally staggered, but in truth it was by consultation between the respective teachers and Ralph Hussey, the altogether excellent County music teacher, who would have to attend at each school to provide accordion accompaniment for the singing. We expected that, besides our own families, maybe as many as a dozen good citizens of Snowdon Township might attend. With a little luck, there might be a dozen more from Minden. Now here I am impoverished for words to adequately describe the sweet ache that suffused we eight innocents in our preparations as the concert grew ever more near - for this, to us, was all that was blessed Christmas. Yet I have related here only the backdrop - the frame - for an ephemeral magic moment that beset us on the night of the actual concert; a fleeting vignette that would soon be erased from the great world whiteboard, save that I am recording it here.

So came the night of the Bat Lake School Christmas concert of 1947. It was lightly snowing with no moonlight. Capable Anna Agnew, our pretty teacher, imported all the way from Gooderham, had coached us through the final, laborious preparations; plays and recitations had been memorized beyond a flounder; songs had been selected and practiced to hoarseness; all was now ready. On the eve of the concert, classes over with, we had run the two miles home at four o'clock to scrub and dress in our best clothes, which, for every one of us, were hand-me-downs - but all freshly washed and hauled in by Mom's red-raw fingers off the frozen line when the snow had started that afternoon. We gave no thought to supper; we knew that at the concert, there would be food - savory food of rare variety, followed by desserts beyond imagining - food in abundance, prepared and brought in tea-towel-covered six-quart baskets by all the women 'round. The excitement was no longer a fever; it was an exquisite pain.

continued on page two

What does Camp Adelaide and Silver Slipper Dance Hall have in common?

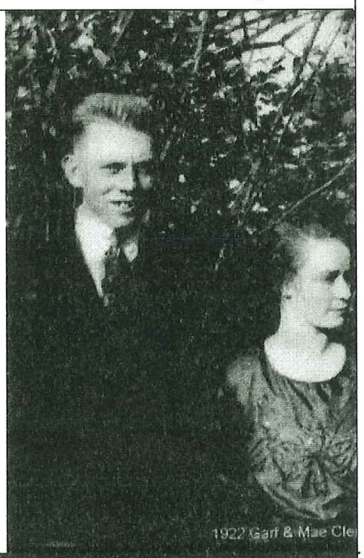
Submitted by Len Clement, Sr.

My Mom, Mahalia Amanda Austin, was born in Lochlin on Dec. 22, 1900. Her parents were Gorton Austin and Helen Clarke. She was one of ten children. She married my dad, Garfield Clement in 1922 in Haliburton.

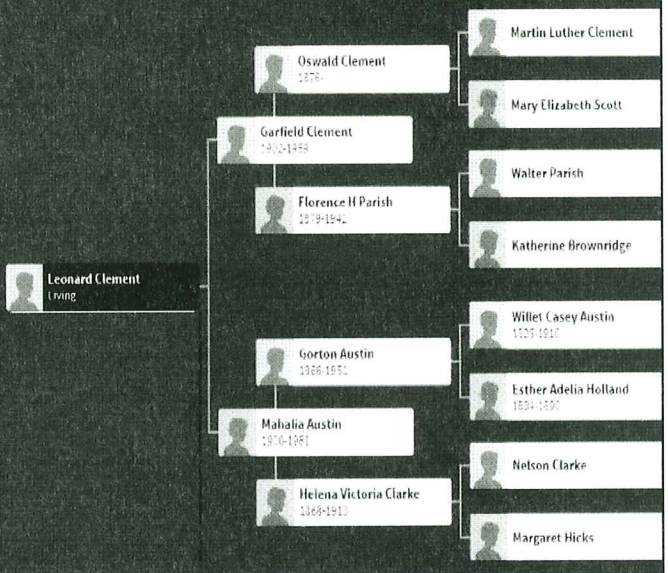
The Oswald Clement farm, just east of Haliburton is where dad was born. It was sold to the Girl Guides (Camp Adelaide) quite a few years ago. Oswald was born at Clement lake, Wilberforce in 1876, son of Martin Luthor Clement and Mary Elizabeth Scott.
They had two sons, my dad, Garfield, another, Herbert, and a daughter Ida May. Ida May married Al Perrin (The Silver Slipper Dance Hall and Perrins Taxi).

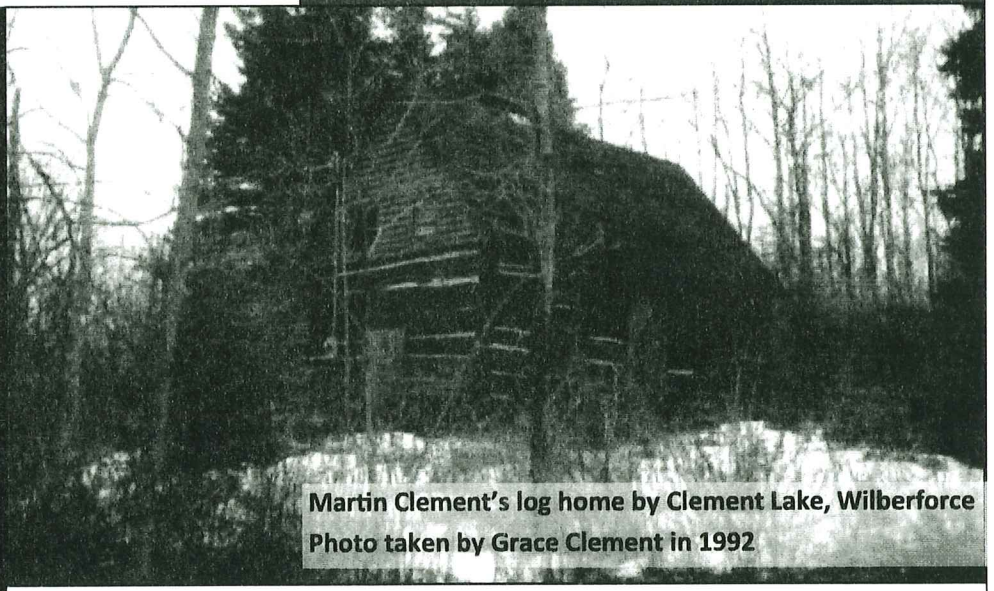
Dad was a mechanic at Ontario Motor Sales in Oshawa and built a cottage on Redstone Lake, north of West Guilford. I am the last of their nine children and was born in Oshawa.

Their descendants number in the hundreds and go from coast to coast.



Herb, Polly, Ida, Albert N. Dan, Ferness, Garf, Alma C., Marjory W., Dorrie N, Annie & Fred Puffer, Oswald & Mae Clement





Martin Clement's log home by Clement Lake, Wilberforce
Photo taken by Grace Clement in 1992

Watch for announcement of our rebuilt/updated website
www.IrondaleOntario.ca

Christmas continued from page two

We would travel back to the school by jumper. Jumper? Using young white ash trees that he cut off our farm, Dad had cobbled together a small one-horse sledge that he called a 'jumper'. About eight feet long, it looked like an overgrown child's snow-sled, but with a single-tree on the front where the traces of our affable old horse could be hitched. It was the only transportation we owned.

With Mom and baby Linda snuggled under a blanket on the jumper (along with Mom's basket of goodies, hoarded and kept secret from the vulturous prying of we six older kids) and Dad beside her, driving old Mick, we started off in the dark for the long pull to the school. Brothers Bob and Bill had stayed on after school that day to keep the fire going in the box stove; Fred, Donnie, Shirley and I alternately rode and scampered alongside as old Mick trudged steadily through the deepening snow. He knew the jumper was padded with hay that he would get to eat when we got to wherever we were going. The coal-oil lantern, hanging on one of the jumper stakes, radiated a pale yellow glow that produced an altogether pleasing sparkle on the snowflakes; the wafting warm kerosene smell of the glowering wick was in sharp contrast to the pristine evergreen scent of the pine forests around us. Although no Christmas card could portray a seasonal scene more compelling, there was nothing special about this to us - it was just the way we did things.

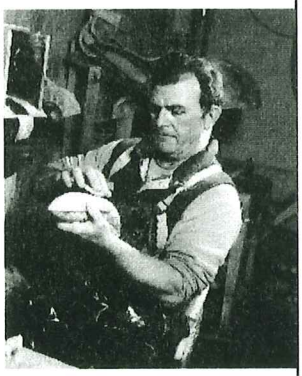
After most of a mile, we presently came abreast of the Hamilton farm gate, whence Dad stopped to give Mick a rest. We sat quietly for a few minutes as the snow wisped gently upon us, everyone bewitched by the silence of the inky night pressing in on the glow of our lantern. But then - like God's whisper, floating across the invisible pasture, came the faint sound of the tinkling of bells which could only just be heard over the noise of old Mick snuffling and blowing in the dark. The tinkling grew louder, now clearly moving down the long lane toward us; and presently, through the filter of snowflakes, we could see the faint loom of a lantern. It was the Hamiltons, for they too were heading out for the concert. Their two grand Clydesdales, Ginger and Prettyboy, were hitched to their sleigh, resolutely pulling stout Jessie Hamilton and her equally stout brother, Walt Donnelly with his wife Winnie, all perched on a straw palliasse under a blanket. We could not see them, only the glow of their lantern; but we could hear the bells, the joyous, tinkling Christmas bells, trembling where Walt had fixed them on the rumps of those great draft horses that were plodding through the snowy night toward us. At the age of eight, when my head should have been awhirl with thoughts of the Christmas bounty waiting at the school, I stood mesmerized in the falling snow. If angels had begun heralding from the sky, as it is said they did on another night long ago, I could not, rather we all could not, have been beset by a greater rapture. It could only have been choreographed by the Great Maker Himself.

The trance was interrupted by Mick blowing a low whinny of greeting to the newcomers. The Hamiltons, seemingly oblivious to us, pulled silently past, the only sound the deep breathing of their horses and the runners of their sleighs creaking on the snow. We let them go ahead of us to break the path; then Dad chirped the go ahead and Mick dropped his head and heaved on the traces to pull us steadily behind them. We glided the remaining miles over the drifted road to the school in a reverie of reflective awe, the only sound the occasional snuffle from a horse and the bells proclaiming their snowy Christmas serenade to the quiet forests that surrounded us. The concert, though successful, was an anticlimax, of which I now remember but little; but rising above the glitz and commerce of each of the sixty-six Christmases since, I hear the bells across a snowy field and I smell the lantern and the pine forest and I feel the snow falling gently on my face - and I know the real moment of Christmas.

The story is copied verbatim - George Pratt, formerly from Bat Lake, Minden and now Vancouver, B.C.

George is a professional sculptor in stone. His works are carved in granite, marble, jade and other exotic ornamental stones of Canada.

One of his sculptures can be seen at the front doors of the Haliburton Hospital



Do you receive your Irondale Newsletters by Canada Post?

Would you consider making a donation towards printing and postage?

We attempt to keep our costs as low as possible, but some things are beyond our control.

Thank You

For the Sports Fans out there ... the answers

1) Did the Argonauts or Stampeders win the 100th Grey Cup Game in 2012? Argonauts 35-22
2) Who was the Raptors only No. 1 overall draft pick in franchise history? Andrea Bargnani
3) What former Penquins' star is second after Wayne Gretzky for career points per game? Mario Lemieux
4) Where was super bowl LV played in February of 2021? Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, Florida
5) What Blue jays outfielder won a 2020 MLB Silver Slugger Award? Teoscar Hernandez
6) What Montreal goalie won his 300th game for the Canadiens in 2018? Carey Price
7) What three CFL teams are community– owned? Saskatchewan Roughriders, Edmonton Elks, and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers
8) What Jays player had 10 extra base hits in his first nine games in 2019? Bo Bichette
9) What is the Maple Leafs all time franchise leader in goals and points? Matt Sundin

Well, how well did you know your sports trivia?

Watch next newsletter for another trivia quiz to test you.

Giant Book and Baked Goods Sale

The Thanksgiving Weekend proved to be cool and damp, several tents provided a dry shopping experience for those looking for winter reading material. Linda had arranged the books in an 'easy to read' fashion with several authors highlighted. People stopped by for a look and brief conversation. Many happy to have face to face interaction - face masks included.

Linda offers 905-442-1794 if you'd like to stop by and browse. Call or text if you have favourite authors that may be pulled ahead of time. Books $5 all you can stuff into the bag. She also has oodles of puzzles, videos and dvds to help you pass the winter. Everything is in a dry location.

Thank You to our shoppers we raised another $367 to support our plans.

Remembrance Day Word Search

Q	F	M	J	L	C	T	R	K	B	W	T	D	Y	A
R	F	I	R	S	T	W	O	R	L	D	W	A	R	O
H	H	A	F	Q	M	C	P	Z	H	L	D	I	S	Y
W	D	L	T	N	O	R	F	N	R	E	T	S	E	W
V	U	P	M	M	P	O	G	O	C	I	R	F	H	A
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P	J	S	N	M	W	F	L	C	L	T	H	X	A	U
K	M	I	E	K	E	L	N	K	V	A	G	G	S	W
V	O	M	Z	V	U	E	Q	K	E	B	R	X	J	H
J	E	N	Z	B	R	R	B	Q	C	O	H	M	S	E
R	A	T	B	T	W	Y	H	P	C	B	Q	T	H	V
P	E	I	B	E	Y	S	T	Q	G	X	H	B	C	O

The words below are hidden in the puzzle on the left. The may be running in any direction.
Once you find the word, circle it and look for the next one.

BATTLEFIELD
BULLY BEEF
FIRST WORLD WAR
JOIN UP
MISFIRE
MUD
REMEMBRANCE DAY
ROSS RIFLE
SAM HUGHES
TRENCH
WAR HERO
WESTERN FRONT

Puzzle taken from student resources offered by the Kayak magazine

The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League

When the First World War came to an end, numerous Veterans groups and regimental associations representing former service members were created. Despite their shared goals, efforts were fragmented and unsuccessful.

An appeal for unity led to the formation of the Dominion Veterans Alliance and, in Winnipeg in 1925, the Legion was founded as "The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League." It was incorporated by a special Act of Parliament and the Charter was issued in July 1926.

Royal Canadian Legion

On December 19, 1960, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II gave her consent to use the prefix 'Royal', and the organization became known as 'The Royal Canadian Legion." The Act of Incorporation was later amended in 1961 to make the change official.

Kinmount Legion

With such an impressive record of military enlistment in both wars, Kinmount was a prime location for the formation of a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Charlie Cummings organized a meeting in 1946; the following gentlemen: R.W. Austin, A. Austin, W. Austin, Charlie Cummings, Mike Cummings, A.R. Douglas, W. Gilleland, Norman Gilmore, J. Mansfield, Reg McGrath, E.R. McGrath, Rev. Sigston, Dr. M Ranney, J.E. Taylor, Percy Welstood, R. Currah, B.E. Young, Bill Mark & Les Emmerson - all signed on as charter members.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #441 was officially chartered on November 15, 1946. It was christened the "John McGrath Branch" after the first Kinmount lad to fall in WW II.

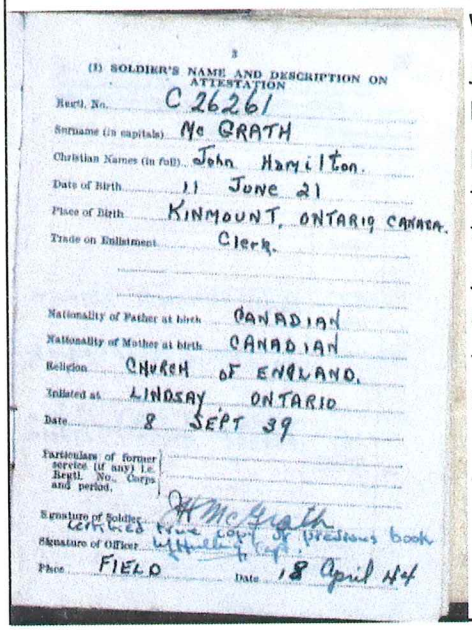
The members had to choose a site in Galway Township as Somerville Township "dry" meaning no alcohol could be served. (Apparently this still is the case) An old school house turned residence stood on the current site. The members purchased the building for $600 and remodeled it. Residents were concerned that a lounge serving alcohol was located across the street from the high school. A compromise was made - the lounge opened at 4:30 pm, after school was over. The building had a wood furnace. Volunteers took shifts through the night to keep the stove full.

Membership soon outgrew the building. A larger building was a big task for the small group, but persistence paid off. A mortgage was taken out and J. Austin Lumber & Phillips Lumber (both local companies) supplied materials on a "pay when you can" basis. The present Legion Hall was completed by 1957 and by 1965 the mortgage was burned.

Early days, women were only allowed in if accompanied by a member and only on Saturdays. Much has changed over the years, but the RCL Branch 441 Kinmount has still maintained its community spirit.

Older membership card

John McGrath—
Who was he and why was his name attached to the Kinmount Legion?



(1) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION ON ATTESTATION

Regtl. No. C 26261
Surname (in capitals) Mc GRATH
Christian Names (in full) John Hamilton.
Date of Birth 11 June 21
Place of Birth KINMOUNT, ONTARIO CANADA.
Trade on Enlistment Clerk.

Nationality of Father at birth CANADIAN
Nationality of Mother at birth CANADIAN
Religion CHURCH OF ENGLAND.
Enlisted at LINDSAY ONTARIO
Date 8 SEPT 39

Particulars of former service (if any) i.e. Regtl. No., Corps and period.

Signature of Soldier J H McGrath
Signature of Officer certifies true copy of previous book

Place FIELD Date 18 April 44

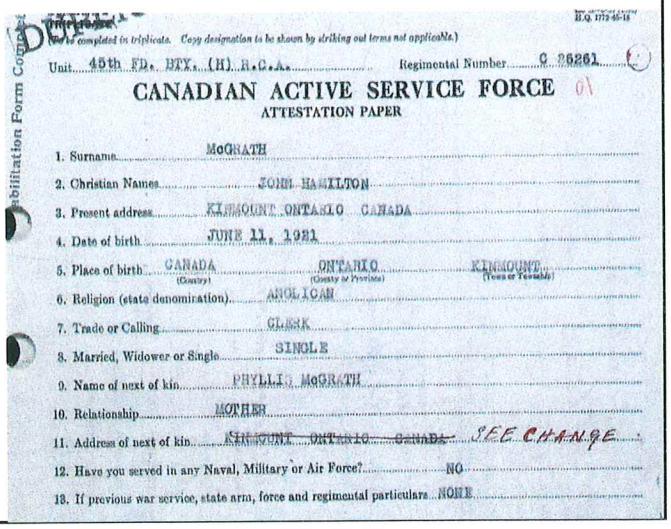
John's Pay Book

John McGrath was born on 11 June 1921 to Thomas Edward McGrath and Phyllis Elizabeth Clarke.

He was the first from Kinmount to enlist in WW II and the first from Kinmount to die in battle.

John enlisted on Sept 8, 1939 and died on 24 July 1944.

Thomas and Phyllis had two Other sons enlist as well.



CANADIAN ACTIVE SERVICE FORCE
ATTESTATION PAPER

Unit 45th FD. BTY. (H) R.C.A. Regimental Number C 26261

1. Surname McGRATH
2. Christian Names JOHN HAMILTON
3. Present address KINMOUNT ONTARIO CANADA
4. Date of birth JUNE 11, 1921
5. Place of birth CANADA (Country) ONTARIO (County or Province) KINMOUNT (Town or Township)
6. Religion (state denomination) ANGLICAN
7. Trade or Calling CLERK
8. Married, Widower or Single SINGLE
9. Name of next of kin PHYLLIS McGRATH
10. Relationship MOTHER
11. Address of next of kin KINMOUNT ONTARIO CANADA SEE CHANGE
12. Have you served in any Naval, Military or Air Force? NO
13. If previous war service, state arm, force and regimental particulars NONE

John's Attestation when he enlisted

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F: 705 286 2977
steve@generatorsolutions.ca
1016 Ravine Road, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0

Irondale newsletter currently reaches 100 postal addresses and 449 email addresses; the numbers are always increasing.

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS
CALL OR TEXT
705-457-8438
ADVERTISING
$60 a year — 6 issues

Thank You
Gerard Klompmaker
for keeping the furnace clean & running efficiently at the heritage building, known as the 'Irondale Church'

Barrett AUTO TECH
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barrettautotech@gmail.com 705-447-2886

THANK YOU TO KINGSLEY GREENHAM FOR KEEPING THE GRASS CUT AT 1019 ELM RD
Much appreciated.

Irondale Events advertise in these local papers - available at most stores across the county.
THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY
The Times MINDEN ONTARIO
County Life

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

These are tentative dates - depends on state of Covid pandemic and rental of community centres.
Please be sure to check the appropriate website and/or Facebook pages to get up to date information

2022	Unless otherwise noted - Tickets available online at www.IrondaleOntario.ca or call/text 705-457-8438
Sat. Feb 19	Trivia Pub Night at the Irondale Community Centre. Doors open at 5pm with dinner served at 5:30pm. The ladies are busy planning the menu and the trivia questions. You won't go away hungry and may win a prize. Brush up on your trivia so you are ready. *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sat. April 16	**Wilberforce Maplefest** Event All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast and lots of shopping with the local vendor tables. 9 am to 2 pm. Wilberforce Community Centre, in the heart of Wilberforce.
Sat. May 7	**Fish 'N Fowl Dinner** held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm. Dinner at 6pm. Fish, turkey, potatoes, vegetables, salad & dessert. Loonie auction action after dessert. $20 pp *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sun. June 5	**First Church Service -** visiting Minister expected. 10 am. Come as you are. **Book Nook Opening -** 11 am to 1 pm - no charge so help yourself to refreshments, books, videos, puzzles ...
Sat. July 9	**Concert on the Lake** - Great music from the comfort of your own boat, canoe or paddleboard. Music starts at 6:30pm Tickets available in advance. Check *www.sdlca.ca* for more details.
Sat. July 23	**Wild Game Dinner** - Popular dinner, held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm, buffet at 6pm. All game served as bite size pieces, you can sample it all. Remember bring loonies for after dinner fun. **PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR THIS DINNER** *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sun. July 31 **TBD**	Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's Canoe Race, BBQ and Children's Games Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's AGM check www.sdlca.ca for up to date information.
Fri. Aug 19 **Sat. Aug 20**	**Irondale Inspirations -** the artists that call Irondale home/cottage will be showcasing their work at the historical Irondale church. 10 am to 4pm. Please drop by, enjoy their talents. You may just catch one or more of them creating on site.
Sat. Sept 24	**Family Harvest Festival** - 11 to 4pm - Vendors, BBQ, displays, tours—all on the property of Irondale's historical church building. NO ADMISSION CHARGED. Hike Haliburton tour starts & ends here as well. *B.L.C.D. event*
Sat Nov 12	**Themed Dinner** held at the Irondale Community Centre. Dinner served from 5 pm til 7pm as long as supplies last. $20 pp Menu still being planned. *You certainly shouldn't go away hungry!* *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*

PLEASE FOLLOW US *www.facebook/IrondaleOntario and VISIT* OUR WEBSITE *www.IrondaleOntario.ca*

Irondale Events are advertised in these local papers - available at most stores across the county.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY
The Times MINDEN ONTARIO
County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands